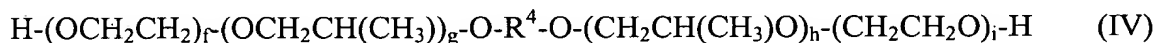


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-based ink comprising (A) an aqueous dispersion of polymer particles having an average particle diameter of 20 to 200 nm, which particles contain a colorant, and (B) at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein each of **a** and **d** is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of **b** and **c** is independently a number of 5 to 20; **e** is a number of 1 to 3; **f** is a number of 5 to 20; each of **g** and **h** is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein **g** + **h** is a number satisfying 1 to 4; **i** is a number of 5 to 20; each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, hexyl and isohexyl ~~having 2 to 6 carbon atoms~~, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^2 is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^4 is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the

oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein said colorant is a hydrophobic dye or a pigment.

Claim 3 (Original): The water-based ink according to claim 1, which comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

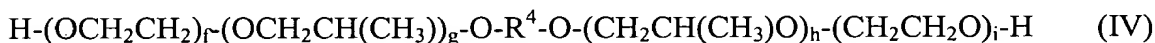
Claim 4 (Original): The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension of the polyalkylene oxide derivative is at least 50 mN/m at 25°C.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, R^2 is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, and R^4 is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The water-based ink according to Claim 1, wherein said colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.

Claim 8 (New): In a water-based ink for inkjet recording, the improvement comprising producing increased jetting stability and drop directionality by including (A) (A) an aqueous dispersion of polymer particles having an average particle diameter of 20 to 200 nm, which particles contain a colorant, and (B) at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:



wherein each of **a** and **d** is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of **b** and **c** is independently a number of 5 to 20; **e** is a number of 1 to 3; **f** is a number of 5 to 20; each of **g** and **h** is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein **g** + **h** is a number satisfying 1 to 4; **i** is a number of 5 to 20; each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, hexyl and isohexyl, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^2 is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^4 is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon

atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

Claim 9 (New): The water-based ink according to Claim 8, wherein said colorant is a hydrophobic dye or a pigment.

Claim 10 (New): The water-based ink according to claim 8, which comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

Claim 11 (New): The water-based ink according to claim 8, wherein the surface tension of the polyalkylene oxide derivative is at least 50 mN/m at 25°C.

Claim 12 (New): The water-based ink according to Claim 8, wherein each of R¹ and R³ is independently a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, R² is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, and R⁴ is a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 13 (New): The water-based ink according to Claim 8, wherein said colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.